

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1220 N Street, Room A-330
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 654-1211
Fax: (916) 654-0555

A.G. KAWAMURA, Secretary



October 13, 2006

To: All County Agricultural Commissioners

From: Pest Detection/Emergency Projects
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

Subject: Diaprepes Public Alert Poster Published in Newspapers this Weekend

Pest Detection/Emergency Projects (PDEP) is issuing the attached "*Diaprepes*" public alert poster requesting the public to contact the California Department of Food and Agriculture's **Exotic Pest Hotline (1-800-491-1899)** if they have observed *Diaprepes abbreviatus*. The poster will be printed in the home and garden sections of the 14 newspapers shown below from Saturday, October 14, 2006 through Saturday, October 21, 2006.

PDEP's district entomologists will respond to calls generated by the alert as they have done for previous public outreach efforts regarding *Diaprepes* elsewhere in California. **Please refer all calls to the Exotic Pest Hotline, 1-800-491-1899.**

**Placement of Diaprepes Root Weevil Public Alert
in Newspapers throughout the State**

<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>
San Jose Mercury News	October 14, 2006	Saturday
Contra Costa Times	October 14, 2006	Saturday
Santa Rose Press Democrat	October 14, 2006	Saturday
San Luis Obispo Tribune	October 13, 2006	Friday
Fresno Bee	October 18, 2006	Wednesday
Los Angeles Times	October 19, 2006	Thursday
Ventura County Star	October 20, 2006	Friday
Palm Desert Sun	October 22, 2006	Sunday
San Francisco Chronicle	October 21, 2006	Saturday
San Diego Union Tribune	October 22, 2006	Sunday
Orange County Register	October 21, 2006	Saturday
Sacramento Bee	October 21, 2006	Saturday
Riverside Press Enterprise	October 21, 2006	Saturday
Santa Barbara News Press	October 21, 2006	Saturday

For questions regarding this announcement, contact Joan Scheiman at (916) 653-0323 or by email at Jscheiman@cdfa.ca.gov.

Attachment

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BUG?

DIAPREPES ROOT WEEVIL

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DIAPREPES ROOT WEEVIL



Photos by John Kabashima



ACTUAL SIZE

The diaprepes root weevil, *Diaprepes abbreviatus*, feeds on about 270 different plants including citrus, hibiscus, avocado, loquat and oak. This pest is a significant threat to both urban and agricultural trees and plants. In California, it has already been intercepted in shipments of plants from Florida and detected in some of our urban landscapes. Adult weevils feed on the leaves of plants and their larvae move underground to feed on plant roots. The larvae can encircle or "girdle" the root systems of trees, cutting off the supply of water and nutrients, eventually killing the host plant. The California Department of Food & Agriculture needs your help to find this pest. If you have seen this weevil or collected a sample (in a small jar or plastic bag), please report it by calling 1-800-491-1899.

CALL 1-800-491-1899